STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
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EARL RAY TOMBLIN
GOVERNOR

April 1, 2016

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State
State of West Virginia
Building 1, Suite 157-K
State Capitol
Charleston, WV 25305

Re: Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4561

Dear Secretary of State Tennant:

Pursuant to section fourteen, Article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4561. This bill requires the Commissioner of the Division of Highways and the Director of the Division of Personnel to collaborate on developing a special hiring procedure for personnel positions in the Division of Highways.

Expediting the hiring process of Division of Highways employees is a laudable goal, a goal that both the Division of Highways and the Division of Personnel have been collaboratively working toward for over a year. However, the changes made in this bill would have the effect of creating a policy that would undermine the integrity and statutory requirements of the civil service merit system in its entirety. Additionally, the proposed new policy would be in direct conflict with existing West Virginia Code and rules related to civil service and the duties and requirements of the Division of Personnel.

In view of the foregoing, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4561. However, I have instructed the Division of Personnel and the Division of

Highways to continue working cooperatively to resolve any existing inefficiencies in internal processes while ensuring that the Division of Highways' employees retain merit based status.

Sincerely,

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

cc: The Hon. Tim Armstead
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The Honorable William P Cole III
President of the Senate